

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 32-38, 40-44, and 62-64 remain pending. Claims 2-5 and 14-25 have been canceled. Claims 32, 35, 36, and 62-64 have been amended.

Support for the amendments to claims 32, 35, 36, and 62-64 with regard to the nitric acid and sulfuric acid can be found in applicants' specification at, for example, [0016].

II. Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 18 and 36 as being anticipated by Wang et al. (U.S. 6,569,359).

Claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the claim in a separate application.

With regard to claim 36, it is directed to an adhesion promotion composition for enhancing adhesion between a copper conducting layer and a dielectric material during manufacture of a printed circuit board, the adhesion promotion composition comprising

...an inorganic acid selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, nitric acid, or a combination thereof,...

The Wang et al. reference is cited for disclosing a chemical-mechanical polishing composition comprising a surfactant, a chelator, an oxidizer, a corrosion inhibitor, a polar solvent, and water. See Wang et al. at Col. 4, lines 41-50. The composition may include a pH adjusting agent. The pH adjusting agents disclosed at Col. 6, lines 10-21 are potassium hydroxide,

ammonium hydroxide, acetic acid, phosphoric acid, and oxalic acid.

According to MPEP §2131:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

In this case, the Wang et al. reference does not anticipate claim 36 because the reference does not disclose an inorganic acid selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, nitric acid, or a combination thereof. The only inorganic acid disclosed in the reference is phosphoric acid.

Since the Wang et al. reference discloses neither sulfuric acid nor nitric acid, the reference does not anticipate claim 36. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

A. Claims 2-5 and 14-25 over JP03-079778A

Claims 2-5 and 14-24 have been canceled without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue them in a separate application.

B. Claims 2 and 14 over JP51-027819A

Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue them in a separate application.

C. Claims 1, 14, 18, and 22 over Goltz

Claims 1, 14, 18, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue them in a separate application.

D. Claims 32-38 and 62-64 over Wang et al.

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 32-38 as being obvious over Wang et al. (U.S. 6,569,349).

Claim 32 is directed to an adhesion promotion composition for enhancing adhesion between a copper conducting layer and a dielectric material during manufacture of a printed circuit board, the adhesion promotion composition comprising:

...an inorganic acid selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, nitric acid, or a combination thereof,...

The disclosure of the Wang et al. reference is set forth above in connection with the §102(e) rejection of claim 36. In relevant part, the Wang et al. reference contains no disclosure of applicants' inorganic acids selected from sulfuric acid, nitric acid, or a combination thereof.

Moreover, these inorganic acids are also not obvious in view of the disclosure of the Wang et al. reference. According to MPEP §2143:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. ...Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The Wang et al. reference cannot meet the third and final criteria of the *prima facie* case of obviousness. In short, the reference simply does not disclose sulfuric acid or nitric acid.

Wang et al. also fail to motivate the person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the composition using either of

sulfuric acid or nitric acid as a pH adjusting agent or for any other reason. Wang et al. disclose only one such inorganic acid, phosphoric acid, in their description. Further, Wang et al. use only phosphoric acid in their example.

Without any guidelines or signposts or any other such teaching toward applicants' claimed sulfuric and nitric acids, Wang et al. provide no motivation toward any other inorganic acid beside phosphoric acid. For these reasons, the reference fails to render claim 32 obvious, and applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

The argument set out above applies to establish the patentability of every other claim rejected over Wang et al. Briefly, claims 33-38 and 62-64 all require or depend from a claim which requires the inorganic acid to be sulfuric acid, nitric acid, or a combination thereof. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

IV. Claim Objections

The objection to claim 5 has been rendered moot because applicants have canceled claim 5.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Office's indication of the allowability of claims 40-44.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims 32-38, 40-44, and 62-64.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee for the two-month extension of time of \$450.00 to Deposit Account No. 19-1345. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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